

## **ABSTRACT**

A method and device for message discard of segmented message traffic in an aggregated message traffic stream of a communications network. The aggregated traffic stream has constituent traffic streams and each constituent traffic stream has segmented message traffic made up of formative segmented message units. An indication of whether a currently received segmented message unit of each constituent traffic stream is to be subjected to discard is stored in a memory. Upon each arrival of a segmented message unit, a detection is made by way of a reader as to whether a currently received segmented message unit denotes a delineation between two segmented messages. A determination of whether a current condition of traffic congestion exists is also made, and a processor utilizes the stored indication, the detection and the determination in arriving at whether a next to be received segmented message unit of the constituent message traffic stream is to be subjected to message discard.